

VZCZCXRO5635  
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR  
DE RUEHLJ #0212 2051223  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 241223Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7401  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0052  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0061  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000212

SIPDIS

S/SRAP FOR KAREN HANRAHAN, SCA/A FOR ARIELLA VIEHE, EUR/RPM  
FOR AARON COPE, EUR/CE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2019

TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [KPAO](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [SI](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA PLANS INCREASE IN CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE TO  
AF/PAK, TROOP LEVELS TO RETURN TO PRE-ELECTION LEVEL

REF: A. SECSTATE 74362

[1](#)B. LJUBLJANA 209

[1](#)C. LJUBLJANA 142

Classified By: CDA Brad Freden, reasons 1.4(b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) Emboffs delivered demarche on assisting Afghanistan beyond the August elections (ref A) and encouraged Slovene officials to commit additional military and civilian resources to Afghanistan. Jure Rifelj, the MFA's coordinator for Afghanistan and currently working in the Defense Ministry's policy planning directorate, told emboff on July 22 that the 15 additional soldiers sent for election security would return to Slovenia after the election period. CDA subsequently asked FM Zbogor to reconsider. Zbogor suggested it would be an MOD decision. Zbogor also told CDA on July 22 that the MFA supports the Ministry of Defense's proposal for Slovenia to lead an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) in September 2010 and lift the operational caveats, subject to government approval (ref B, C).

[1](#)2. (C) Igor Jukic, head of the MFA's Security Policy Division, noted to emboffs on July 21 that Slovenia, in spite of recent defense budget cuts, would maintain its current baseline level (around 65-70 soldiers) in Afghanistan through at least the end of 2010. Jukic highlighted the importance of Slovenia's participation in NATO, EU, and UN missions abroad and said any budget constraints would affect domestic military expenses first and overseas operations would not be reduced. MOD officials confirmed to ODC Chief on July 23 that deployments would remain a budget priority, ahead of external training and equipment procurement.

[1](#)2. (C) Rifelj and MOD State Secretary Uros Krek plan to travel to Afghanistan on July 28 to analyze possibilities for greater civilian and development assistance in and around Herat. Rifelj told us on July 22 that there is momentum building within the MFA and MOD for expanding such assistance to broaden Slovenia's engagement beyond contributions of troops to ISAF and equipment to the Afghan National Army. FM Zbogor confirmed this to CDA later on July 22, noting that Rifelj would travel often to Herat, where Slovenian civilian and military efforts are focused. Alenka Suhadolnik, head of MFA's international development division, told CDA on July 22 that a draft MFA proposal would allocate about 470,000 euros for the development of long-term projects in Afghanistan focusing on mobile veterinary stations for nomadic herdsman, village cooperatives with an emphasis on women's involvement, and water management. She also noted that her division was preparing a proposal to provide assistance to refugees in Pakistan's Swat Valley.

13. (C) FM Zbogar informed CDA that he had spoken with Defense Minister Jelusic about a public information campaign on Afghanistan. CDA reviewed various ways the U.S. had assisted other countries with such campaigns, and Zbogar welcomed the possibility of U.S. public diplomacy cooperation and assistance to build public support for Slovenia's commitment of additional civilian and military resources in Afghanistan. FREDEN